

Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) and Minimum Data Set (MDS) Automation

Date: April 28, 2000

DSL-BQA-00-037

To: Nursing Homes

NH 19

From: Jan Eakins, Chief, Provider Regulation and Quality Improvement Section

via: Susan Schroeder, Director, Bureau of Quality Assurance

This memo addresses the current status of Minimum Data Set (MDS) automation and the Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI). If you have any further questions regarding these issues, please contact Billie March, RAI Education Coordinator, at (608) 266-7188, or Chris Benesh, MDS/OASIS Automation Coordinator, at (608) 266-1718.

MDS Spring Release

The spring release of the State MDS System will be installed on May 25, 2000 from 7:00 a.m. until noon. No MDS transmissions will be accepted by the State MDS System during this time. The spring release includes the following changes to the MDS automation process:

1. Version 1.10 of the MDS data specifications will be implemented including an automated correction process. A copy of the federal Health Care Financing Administration, Draft Provider Instructions for Making Automated Corrections is attached for your information. Nursing homes should contact their MDS software vendors to ensure that the MDS software that the nursing home is using will conform to the new data specifications. The current 1.03 version of the MDS data specifications will continue to be accepted by the State MDS System after the implementation of version 1.10; however, it will be discontinued sometime in the future.
2. Changes to MDS key fields must be completed using the new automated correction process. The use of the MDS Key Field Correction form will be discontinued effective May 25, 2000.
3. Many errors that were non-fatal record errors in the past will become fatal record errors. Nursing homes must review their Final Validation Reports very carefully. All MDS assessment records that are rejected must be corrected and resubmitted to the State MDS System within the required timeframes.

Training Opportunity

The Bureau of Quality Assurance is sponsoring an Educational Teleconference Network (ETN) program. The main focus of this ETN is to review changes to MDS automation that will be implemented with the spring release on May 25, 2000. The MDS OASIS ETN will cover the following topics:

- Automated Correction Process
- Enhanced Edits and Rejections
- Submission and Record Locking Requirements
- Provider System Requirements
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Nursing home staff involved with the transmission of MDS data to the State MDS System are encouraged to attend this ETN. The ETN will be held on May 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

A list of ETN locations is attached for your reference. Select the most convenient listening location and contact them directly prior to the program date to schedule your attendance. This program is provided free of charge and there is no need to pre-register with the Bureau of Quality Assurance.

ETN Reference Materials

Participants attending the ETN mentioned above should bring a copy of the attached documents.

- Health Care Financing Administration, Draft Provider Instructions for Making Automated Corrections
- Changes to MDS Clinical and Automation Policy, Spring 2000 Release (speaker slides - yellow)
- Draft 01/11/2000 MDS System Messages and Descriptions (green)
- MDS ETN Evaluation

These documents will be covered in detail during the ETN.

Evaluation Questionnaires

Attached are two evaluation questionnaires. The Provider Regulation and Quality Improvement Section (PRQI) within the Bureau of Quality Assurance, is evaluating the MDS ETN program mentioned above, and also the assistance that is provided when nursing home staff contact the PRQI staff with questions related to the RAI/MDS process. Each staff attending the MDS ETN program that will be held on May 24, 2000 should complete the MDS ETN evaluation questionnaire. Please make additional copies if necessary. Only one RAI/MDS BQA Assistance Provided evaluation should be completed per nursing home.

We appreciate staff taking the time to complete these evaluation questionnaires. Please fax or mail evaluations back to the Bureau of Quality Assurance by June 3, 2000.

State Help

Questions related to MDS data encoding and submission (feedback reports, error messages and data corrections) should be direct to either:

Cindy Symons, MDS Technical Analyst, (608) 266-9675
symonc@dhfs.state.wi.us

or **Chris Benesh**, MDS Automation Coordinator, (608) 266-1718
benesce@dhfs.state.wi.us

Questions related to the RAI/MDS process (clinical issues) should be directed to:
Billie March, RAI Education Coordinator, (608) 266-7188
marchba@dhfs.state.wi.us